

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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**CONYERS CALLS IMMIGRATION BILL
" A SLAP AT OUR NATION'S IMMIGRATION HERITAGE"**

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee issued the following statement in response to Congressman Gekas's introduction of The SAFER Act:

"The introduction of this bill does a disservice to our nation's tradition as a nation of immigrants. Only 10 members of the most restrictionist wing of the Republican party have co-sponsored the bill. President Bush, Governor Ridge and Attorney General Ashcroft have not asked for the bill and have not endorsed it. The fact that virtually anyone who attempts to enter this country would be subject to an interview would destroy trade and tourism and demonstrates a lack of any serious forethought on the issue. The Gekas bill ignores our country's tradition of being a nation of immigrants and our status as a beacon of freedom and refuge. It slams the door on law abiding immigrants that have for centuries formed the fabric of our country, and will create a false sense of security that will leave our nation vulnerable to those intent on attacking us. I. will do everything in my power to see that this bill never sees the light of day."

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